

"Annals of Government," by Clak Clifford - two New Yorker

4/4/91

articles, undated, from Dave Wrono, comment on our anti-Semitic State Department Beginning on page 59 of the first article Clifford goes into bureaucratic opposition to creation of the State of Israel, particularly in the State Department and by of Secretary of State George Marshall.

I'd known these things in general but not any of the specifics Clifford gives.

After all, I was there - and then. The State Department in those days had one Jew in any real position of authority and it was the common belief in Washington that he was the "show" Jew. He was Ben Cohen, formerly one of the pair of FDR's whiz kids, the other Thomas Corcoran, "Tommy the cork" to FDR.

In Clifford's account Marshall threatened Truman as no president had ever been threatened by any subordinate of any rank if Truman did recognize Israel as a state. There are a number of other details in the article and the roles of some of the others in high positions are set forth.

Clifford is careful not to refer to Marshall as anti-Semitic or even to suggest it. He limits what he writes to Marshall's reasons for refusing to recognize that state's creation and to details of the vigorous and unhidden campaign of the State Department at the UN in direct opposition to the President's policy. On this he is quite clear.

But the fact is that Marshall was anti-Semitic and connived with anti-Semitic and reactionary Members of Congress, then controlled by the Republicans, in his anti-Semitism.

I have personal knowledge of this because I was one of his victims.

The public accounts make no mention of this and give an understated number of 10 of us fired under the clearly unconstitutional McCarran rider on as I now recall an appropriation bill. McCarran was himself a native fascist and he had many Congressional allies not by any means all GOP.

I have what State has disclosed or its records relating to me and what the FBI has disclosed. Neither is complete but it is a safe assumption that if any of the withheld records even suggested I was even suspected of being a Communist, which I never was, they would not have been withheld.

Implimentation, and perhaps origination at State was under Otto Otepka or Francis G. Knight, in charge of passports at one point and who I'd known as an ultra-reactionary when she was in a war agency and I was a magazine correspondent. Also the most active subordinate John Peurifoy, later Ambassador to Guatemala when the democratic government there was overthrown by the CIA and what is never mentioned, State. (It was literally dangerous to be in a corridor or on a stairway when Peurifoy was, he rushed that carelessly. He killed himself in Guatemala with his wild driving. It was he who phoned Hoover at the FBI to notify him that I'd been fired.)

For some reason not in any way indicated in any of the disclosed records I was fired first and separately, under a phony reduction-in-force claim. I was a veteran, I went to Civil Service, and it forced State to rescind the firing.

Next thing I knew I was sitting at my desk and was informed verbally that I had been fired and to clear out pronto. Then I learned that three other Jews in my ^{Latin America} Division of Research and Analysis, transferred to State when OSS was liquidated, also had been fired. Then other three were all eminent scholars, two, Alexander Lesser and Irving Goldman, were anthropologists and proteges of Margaret Mead. The other was an authentic Latin Americanist from a California university, Woodrow Borah.

I did not know those in other components but it before long became clear that there had been a case of mistaken identity, a man named Rennie having been confused with an anti-Peron woman in our division, Isabelle Rennie.

The others began with the immature assumption that they could just leave quietly and return to academic careers. As I tried to persuade them that we had to fight back the chief resistance was by Goldman's wife, ^{Hannah}, who still had a State job. But not for long. She had to do with the selection of American art to be displayed abroad and the reactionaries got her because she selected modernistic art. They could not even tolerate that.

In the end I did get the four of us unified and was able to arrange for the law firm the ^Nknown as Arnold, Fortas and Porter to represent us without fee. I'd known Thurman Arnold when he was assistant attorney general in charge of the Anti-Trust Division and I took all the result of my Nazi-Cartel exposes to it. I'd known Paul Porter after he'd been a Federal Communications Commissioner and was in private practice. I then did not know Abe Fortas although, unrelated, I'd known his wife when she was an NLRB lawyer, Carol Agger. In the end they got us rehired with an apology and with an agreement that we'd then all resign, no great consideration on our part after this experience!

Bitter-ending State, however, gypped me out of the back pay I was due!

I tried to learn what had happened and largely through Paul Richman, then head of the Anti-Defamation League's Washington office, did learn. Paul was a rabbi. We'd worked together closely and he used to refer to me as a "one-man ADL."

In summary, the Congressional anti-Semites involved in the State appropriations blackjacked Marshall, and I'm not sure that he was unwilling at all, into firing 10 Jews. If he refused, they would not enact a very small appropriation for State, as I recall a sum not much more than a quarter of a million dollars. House appropriations was then chaired by the GOP reactionary from upstate New York, John (?) Taber. His honcho was a native fascist ^HHarold Barger.

Under this McCarran rider State and several other agencies could fire anyone at any time without giving or needing any reason. I was never given any charges, never had any hearing and there was not even a rumor that reached me to offer any justification or

explanation of any kind.

My understanding ^{at} the time was that Barger was behind it but that it was at the ^{last} approved by Taber and his fellow anti-Semites. It may have been Taber's idea that Barger and others on the Staff carried through. If I knew then I don't recall now. But my recollection is clear that it was not those two alone. Moreover, that committee, like all such committees had numerous Members of both parties.

I think Hoover and the FBI leaked the story to the then reactionary Washington Times-Herald, ^{ed} own by Cissy Patterson and with policies like those of her relatives who owned the Chicago Tribune and the New York Daily News, in those days all reactionary and not infrequently not opposed to Hitler and nazis.

At one point Paul sent me to see Sol Bloom, ranking ^{foreign relations} Democrat on the committee and its long-time chairman, ^{ed} a real phony "patriot" who published ^{ed} many government books to establish his patriotism. Because I had been sent by Paul he did see me but he would not do a thing and made that clear. ^{ed} He didn't. (His daughter, Vera, had ^{ed} accepted a decoration from Mussolini and had failed to return it when he aligned himself with Hitler and after World War II broke out.)

Of course there was more than anti-Semitism involved. Policy was, and input on policy. By ^{ed} firing us those reactionaries fired those who did not provide unjustified and unjustifiable ~~not~~ reactionary input. Of the kind the Otepka and the Peurifoy and their allies wanted. By misusing "security," the Otepka/Peurifoy role, those reactionaries were able to control the information that flowed upward. *And from whom*

How reactionary were they, how pro-fascist? I learned from records I got later. I'd been assigned to prepare a paper for use at the UN on the Franco penetration of Latin America through his own fascist party, the Falange. Peurifoy saw to it behind the scenes that I was denied the raw material required by that study. ^{at} The emasculated what I could do and had the effect of being pro-Franco, ^{lostoring} pro-Falange influence in Latin America.

Although under FDR, who had no such prejudices, and the liberals ^{then} elected to the Congress there was decreasing anti-Semitism, it was wide-spread, including in the Congress. When Martin Dies sought to re-constitute the Un-American activities committee, he was saying openly that there would be no Jews on it. He referred to Sam Dickstein ^(Dem., N.Y.) who was or was close to co-chairman with the later majority leader, John McCormack of Mass. Many of the reactionary Democrats from the South were vocally anti-Semitic on the floor and in speeches distributed by native nazis under Congressional franked mail. The Dies hearings were both anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic, especially when they were anti-labor, as most were.

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